

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media partners –

In your stories, online lists, community calendars and social media posts of holiday volunteer and/or donation drives, please consider adding charitable giving programs that benefit Utah's mental health patients at the Utah State Hospital and adults with no family who are wards of the state through the Office of Public Guardian. We are happy to coordinate interviews about either of these programs:

The Forgotten Patient Holiday Project — The Utah State Hospital

What it is: Being in a hospital over the holidays can be difficult for patients, especially for those without family or loved ones to visit them. This last year and a half have been especially difficult for the patients without being able to have many visitors or leave the campus for activities due to the pandemic. The Forgotten Patient Holiday Project provides gifts to State Hospital patients who otherwise may not receive anything due to a lack of family or other difficult circumstances.

How you can help: You can help by volunteering as a sponsor and providing gifts for these individuals. Sponsors receive an information sheet about one individual—complete with clothing sizes, hobbies, interests, favorite treats and other requests—and are then free to select certain items they would like to purchase and give, with the exception of a few items for the safety of the patients (please clarify with a State Hospital professional on which items may not be good gifts to give). The gifts are then wrapped, labeled and delivered to the Hospital patients on Christmas morning.

Contact: Learn more or volunteer today by contacting Cami Roundy at [801-344-4254](tel:801-344-4254) or camiroundy@utah.gov. If you would like to help, but are unable to sponsor a patient, cash donations are also accepted.

Donations for Office of Public Guardian clients

What it is: The Utah Office of Public Guardian is a state agency that provides guardianship services to adults who are unable to make basic life decisions for themselves and have no other family to care for

them. Each year around the holidays, many individuals OPG serves are in need of items like clothing, bedding and personal care supplies.

How you can help: With no family to care for or provide for their needs, you can help by donating cash or a gift card that helps to purchase needed items and ensure that all individuals receive a gift for the holidays.

Send checks or gift cards to:

Office of Public Guardian
195 N. 1950 W.
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Contact: If you have questions, please email utahopg@utah.gov or call (801) 538-8255.

Thank you for your consideration for calendars and holiday stories.